

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Behavioral Health Division Administration
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

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DATE: February 24, 2012

TO: Supervisor Peggy Romo West, Chairperson, Health & Human Needs Committee

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by: Paula Lucey, Administrator, Behavioral Health Division

SUBJECT: **Informational Report From the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, Regarding a Cooperative Agreement Between the Behavioral Health Division and Children's Service Society of Wisconsin for AODA Services**

BACKGROUND

The Behavioral Health Division (BHD) Community Services Branch (CSB) has been meeting with Children's Service Society of Wisconsin (CSSW) for several months to share information and identify ways in which the two entities could work together to best meet the needs of the individuals served in each system. In so doing, it became apparent that there is a considerable amount of population overlap, particularly between CSSW and the CSB Wiser Choice program, which serves adults with substance abuse issues. Upon further examination of the possibilities, it has been established that because of this population overlap, there exists an opportunity to leverage one another's expertise and resources to more effectively and efficiently serve the individuals who are or should be served by both BHD and CSSW.

DISCUSSION

BHD and CSSW have been meeting regularly to establish the terms and details of an agreement between the two parties. The meetings have included discussions regarding everything from necessary services for the CSSW/Wiser Choice overlapping population, how services will be provided, fiscal considerations, and communication with the various stakeholders involved. Both BHD and CSSW believe that there are benefits to both parties by establishing this partner relationship. Some of the highlights of the partnership include:

- **Expertise:** CSSW has the most experience and knowledge in providing child welfare services. The BHD Wiser Choice services area has expertise at assessing and providing substance abuse services. This partnership will let each agency focus on their area of expertise, thus best meeting the needs of the clients served in each system.
- **Efficiencies:** Currently there are two separate systems, with CSSW establishing its own contracts with providers for AODA services. Many of the clients access both the BHD AODA system and the CSSW system at different points in their recovery. This will create a more

efficient system that is basically seamless and more user friendly for the client and the network of service providers. Also, it will alleviate the potential for services being duplicated between the two systems.

- **Funding:** Since CSSW and BHD have many clients in common, this will allow BHD to leverage CSSW funds with other Wiser Choice funding streams. This will allow for the service of individuals who already qualify for but may not be accessing services through Wiser Choice. Whereas funding streams have decreased significantly in the substance abuse system in the last two years, this will add service capacity to the system and will also increase Wiser Choice’s capability of meeting its target numbers for existing funding streams.
- **Data:** The Wiser Choice system has the ability to track an extensive amount of data. Leveraging this capability will enhance CSSW’s understanding of the needs, outcomes, successes and barriers of the individuals in their system requiring substance abuse services.
- **Seamless System:** BHD and CSSW have compared their provider networks and there are only four agencies that CSSW uses that are not currently within the Wiser Choice network. We are working on a plan to address those agencies. It is expected that this will be a seamless transition for clients in either system.
- **Infrastructure:** The CSSW clients will be able to utilize the existing BHD infrastructure for AODA services and BHD will be able to count CSSW clients toward their overall ATR grant goals, which increased the number of clients by 65% in 2012.

Overall, BHD feels that this partnership will be a great opportunity for CSSW and BHD to focus on what each does best and create a seamless system for clients who may need the services of both systems. It is also a testament to the community support and praise for the BHD AODA service network.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

For 2012, BHD and CSSW are proposing a nine-month contract, starting April 1, 2012. CSSW, after taking their administrative fee, will give their Block Grant funds for AODA services to BHD to manage. BHD will charge a 10% administrative fee to assist with the increased workload and then add the rest to the entire voucher pool. All of the funding from CSSW will be tracked separately and reported back to them. Below is an overview of the fiscal calculations:

	2012 Annual	9 month Contract
State Contract with CSSW	633,200	474,900
Total Admin Allowed - 15%	94,980	71,235
CSSW Admin Amount - 5%	31,660	23,745
BHD Admin Amount - 10%	63,320	47,490

	2012 Annual	9 month Contract
Contract Amount for Client Services	538,220	403,665

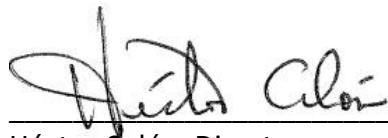
**Total client service amount subject to change for 2012 based on actual expenditures by CSSW from Jan-March 2012*

The agreement between CSSW and BHD will include provisions to hold CSSW responsible for any client service costs above the contract amount and also to deal with any potential surplus funds so that this is a net zero levy impact for the County.

RECOMMENDATION

BHD is working with CSSW and the State of Wisconsin to have an agreement in place by April 1, 2012. BHD will be working closely with CSSW for the first few months to ensure that everything goes as planned. In addition, BHD will continue to work with the Board, State and other stakeholders as additional opportunities for partnership may arise.

BHD received an opinion from Corporation Counsel that County Board approval is not required prior to execution of the agreement, as the Milwaukee County Code of Ordinances does not mandate County Board approval for contracts and/or partnerships for a department's sale of services. As such, this is an informational report. No action is necessary.



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

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